REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 USC §102(e) over Greco et al. Applicant respectfully disagrees, but believes that the amendments made to claim 9 to address the rejection and better prevent the claim from being misread onto anything fairly taught by Greco et al. In particular, claim 9 specifically requires that each one of a plurality of leak diagnostic ports be fluidly connected to one of the leak lines. Since a §102(e) rejection requires that a reference disclose exactly what an Applicant has claimed, and because Greco et al. does not do this, Applicant respectfully requests that the outstanding rejection based upon Greco et al. be withdrawn.

Claims 9-11 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) over Hutchison et al. Applicants appreciate the withdrawal of the previous §102 rejections since there is now apparently no dispute that Hutchison fails to show what Applicants have claimed. However, Applicants also respectfully assert that because Hutchison is totally directed to detecting a leak from a single underground storage tank that never contemplates a system with a plurality of high pressure spaces let alone a system and strategy, as claimed by Applicants, for accurately identifying a leak location among a plurality of potential leak locations. Therefore, Hutchison can not render obvious a subject matter it does not even contemplate. Furthermore, surely Applicants claims can not be misread onto a service station with multiple independent buried storage tanks at one location. To do so would be unfair and would require Applicants claims to be interpreted inconsistent with Applicants specification, which is forbidden under the MPEP and relevant case law. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding §103(a) rejections over Hutchison et al. be withdrawn.

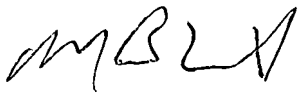
Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) over Greco et al. While it is true that Greco et al. teaches a system and method for detecting a leak in a high pressure fuel system via a wet sensor, it contains no teaching suggestion or incentive for how that system can be modified to include features that allow the leak location to be diagnosed, let alone be diagnosed in a manner required by Applicant's claims. In one aspect, Applicant's system includes a single wet sensor that detects and alerts an operator when a

leak is detected anywhere in a high pressure fuel system, and then utilizes separate diagnostic ports for use in identifying where the leak originated in the system. Thus, the claimed invention is clearly a patentable improvement over Greco et al., and Applicant respectfully requests that the outstanding §103 rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 13-16 stand objected to as being allowable but depending upon a rejected base claim. In response, Applicants have amended claim 13 into independent form and respectfully requests that it and its dependent claims now be shown as allowable. A check in the amount of $200.00 is included to cover the excess independent claim fee. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account number 500226.

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance of claims 1-20. However, if the Examiner believes that some minor additional clarification would put this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited contact the undersigned attorney at (812) 333-5355 in order to hasten the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael B. McNeil
Reg. No. 35,949